



2009 Street Needs Assessment Results and Observations

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Presentation to Toronto City Council

May 11, 2010

Context

- Second Street Needs Assessment: April 15, 2009
- More than 450 volunteers and 278 team leaders participated
- \$119,000 cost funded entirely by the federal Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI)
- Next Street Needs Assessment to take place in April 2012, as outlined in Housing Opportunities Toronto



Survey Approach

- Objective - to determine the services that people who are homeless need in order to help them find and keep permanent housing
- Method used for outdoor estimate is recognized by the US government's Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a model for statistically valid survey methods
- Conducted using a consistent method to ensure that results would be comparable to those in 2006



Key Results: City Services

- Outdoor homelessness cut in half
- 1.7% decrease in homelessness in service areas directly administered by the City of Toronto

	2006 # of Homeless Individuals	2009 # of Homeless Individuals	# Change	% Change
Outdoor	818	400	-418	-51.1%
Single Adult	2443	2408	-35	-1.4%
Youth	421	489	68	16.2%
Family	785	1093	308	39.2%
Shelters Total	3,649	3,990	341	9.3%
City Administered Services Total	4,467	4,390	-77	-1.7%

Key Results: Provincial Services

- Improvements were made to the collection of data from provincially administered services and caution should be exercised when comparing results from 2006 and 2009

	2006 # of Homeless Individuals	2009 # of Homeless Individuals	# Change	% Change
VAW Shelters	171	185	14	8.2%
Health and Treatment Facilities	275	223	-52	-18.9%
Correctional Facilities	139	288	149	107.2%
Provincially Administered Services	585	696	111	19.0%

Key Results: Summary

	2006		2009		Comparison from 2006 to 2009	
	# of Homeless Individuals	% of estimated total homeless	# of Homeless Individuals	% of estimated total homeless	# Change	% Change
Outdoor	818	16.2%	400	7.9%	-418	-51.1%
Shelters	3,649	72.2%	3,990	78.5%	341	9.3%
City Administered Services	4,467	88.4%	4,390	86.3%	-77	-1.7%
VAW Shelters	171	3.4%	185	3.6%	14	8.2%
Health and Treatment Facilities	275	5.4%	223	4.4%	-52	-18.9%
Correctional Facilities	139	2.8%	288	5.7%	149	107.2%
Provincially Administered Services	585	11.6%	696	13.7%	111	19.0%
TOTAL	5052	100.0%	5,086	100.0%	34	0.7%

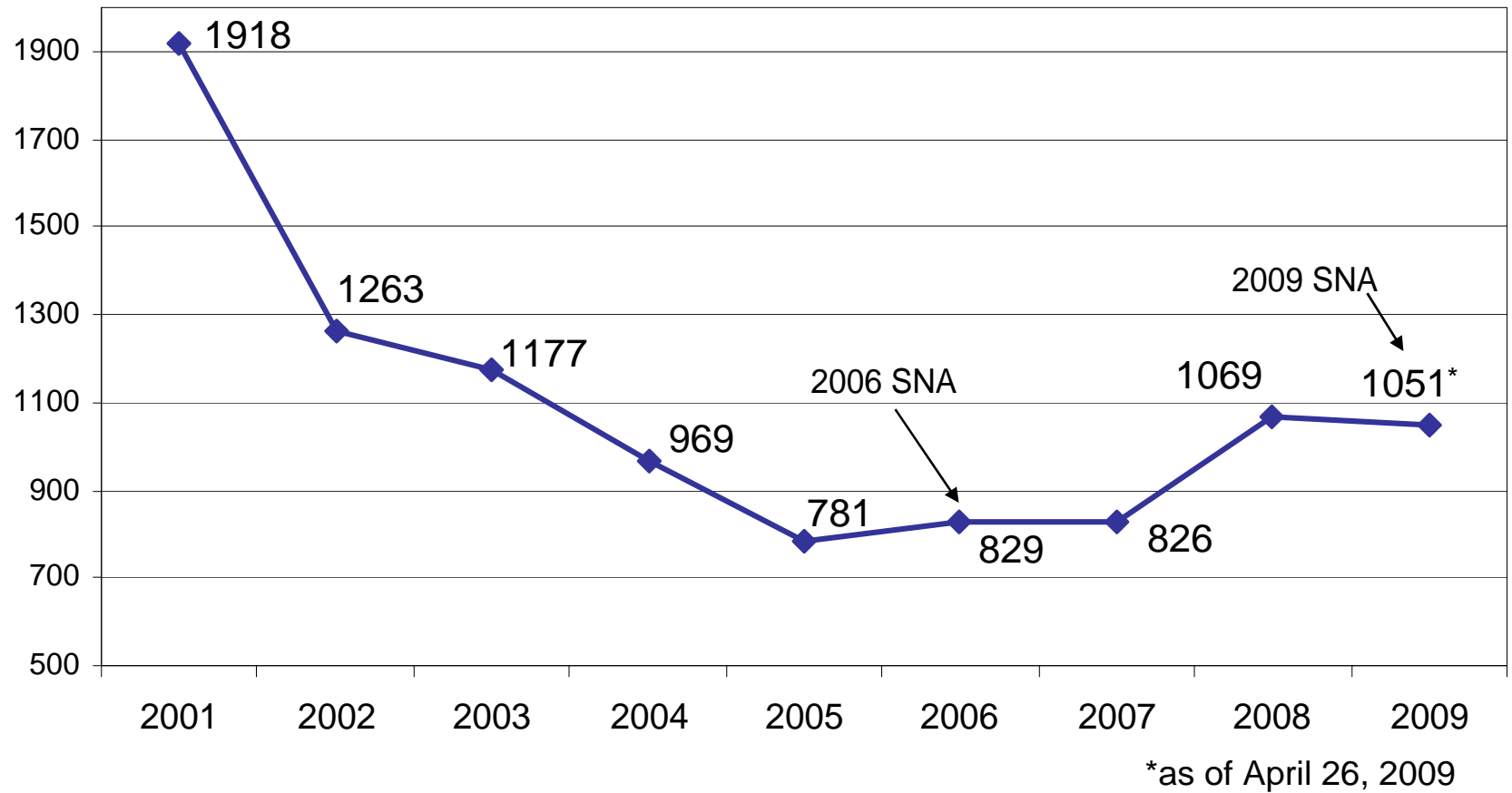
Comparison to Other Jurisdictions

Location	Date Range of Most Recent Surveys	% change in total homeless population
Toronto	2006 to 2009	+ 0.7%
Metro Vancouver	2005 to 2008	+ 22%
Calgary	2006 to 2008	+ 18.2%
Edmonton	2006 to 2008	+ 17.6%

- In comparison to the 51% reduction in outdoor homelessness in Toronto, New York City saw a 39.4% reduction in outdoor homeless over the same period

Family Homelessness

- Driven by federal immigration policy



Service Needs

- Aboriginal people still overrepresented in homeless population but fewer sleeping outdoors
- Panhandling down (from 17.4% in 2006 to 9.7% in 2009), employment up (from 23.2% in 2006 to 28.8% in 2009) as reported sources of income
- More homeless people may be able to access ODSP - 34.5% of people not currently in receipt of ODSP benefits believe they are eligible, however nearly two-thirds of those have never applied



Service Needs

- Increased number of homeless individuals report being on a waiting list, from 36.6% in 2006 to 45.4% in 2009
- 51.8% of homeless people self-identified that access to addiction, health and mental health services would help them to find housing
- Average length of homelessness decreased from 3.4 years to 2.9 years

Service Needs

- The top five responses of what would help an individual find housing remain unchanged from 2006:
 - Help finding an affordable place
 - More money
 - Transportation to see apartments
 - Help with housing applications
 - Help getting identification
- Results again show that overwhelmingly (9 out of 10) homeless people want permanent housing

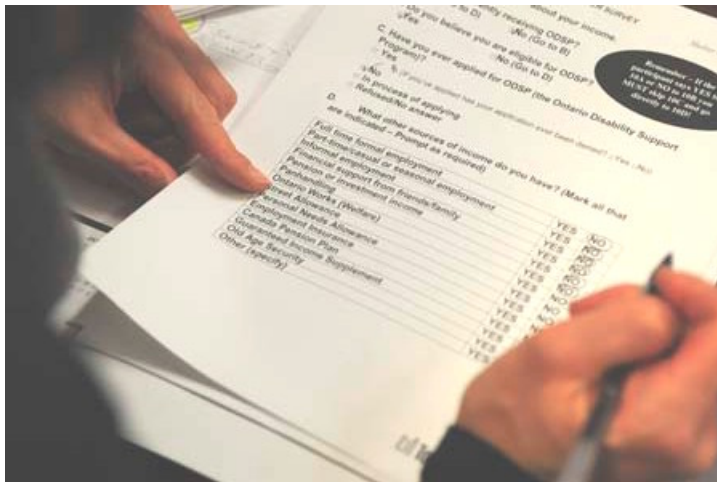


Observations

- Maintain momentum to end Aboriginal homelessness
- City shelter system key to immigrant and refugee resettlement
- City shelter system an important support to victims of family violence
- Access to ODSP key to obtaining a home
- More work needed on homelessness in correctional facilities

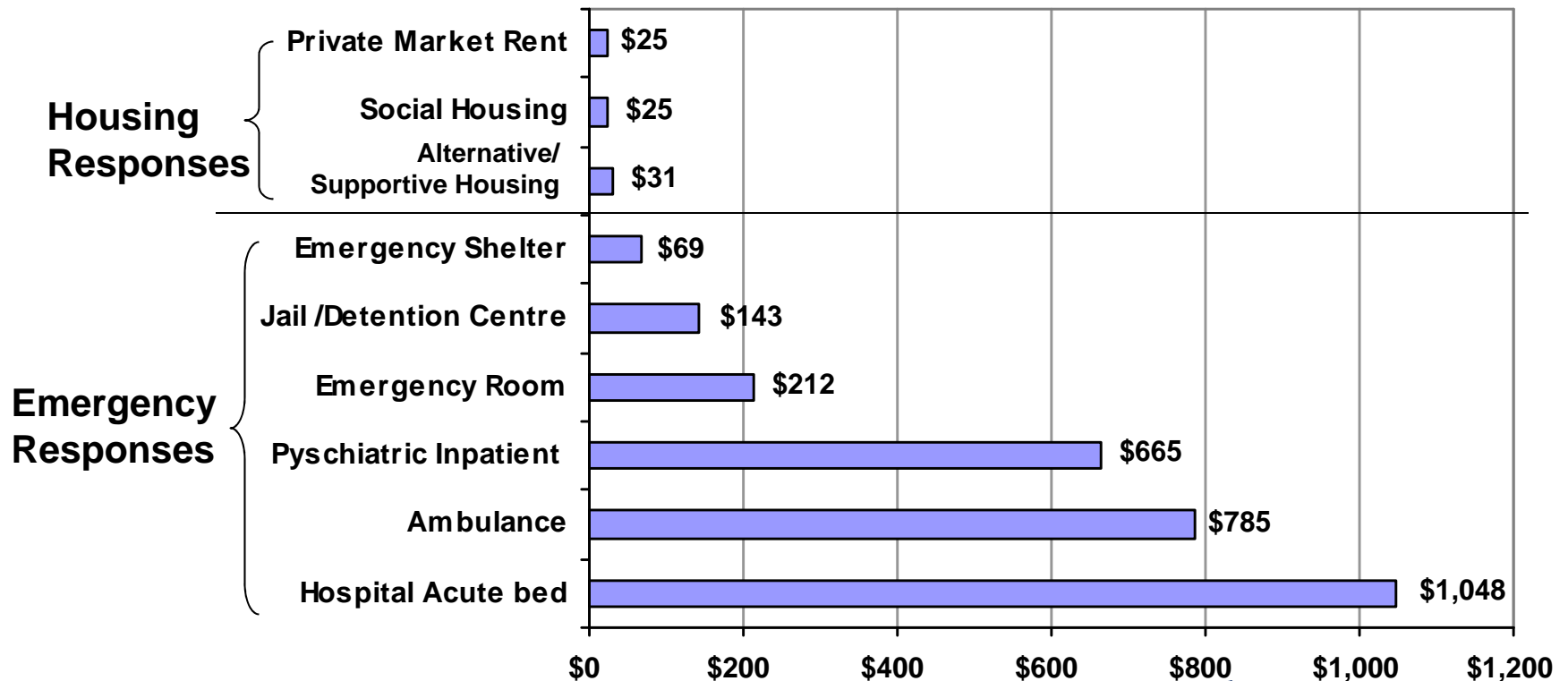
Observations

- Need continues for affordable housing and housing supports
- Affordable housing with supports saves tax dollars



Cost Savings Analysis

- The costs of providing affordable housing are less on average than the use of emergency services when people are homeless.





Home is where it starts.